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Attorney Docket No. 71745/55913

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Butt *et al.*

GROUP: 1636 ✓

U.S.S.N.: 09/856,336

EXAMINER: Sandals, W.

FILED: August 20, 2001

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FOR: NUCLEIC ACID ISOLATION

AUG 19 2003

MAIL STOP RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail (Express Mail Label No. EV 343735183 US), addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 13, 2003.

By: Louise M. Rappaport  
Louise M. Rappaport

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Sir:

**LETTER**

Applicants submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination and Petition for an Extension of Time with the appropriate fees and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 and four (4) references. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the references submitted herewith. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted previously on 26 August 2002.

If discussion would advance this important case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned as soon as convenient.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is respectfully considered in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are

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Examiner: Sandals, William O.

earnestly solicited.

Applicants hereby request a three-month extension of time for the Request for Continued Examination and accompanying materials. Applicants believe that no additional petition for an extension of time is required. If, however, an additional petition for an extension of time is required, then the Examiner is requested to treat this as a conditional petition for an extension of time. Although it is not believed that any additional fee (in addition to the fee concurrently submitted) is required to consider this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Date: August 13, 2003

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